

valuable program. It is my hope that my colleagues in the House will join me in saying thank you to all those who have been a part of the Eckerd College Search and Rescue program for a job well done.

TRIBUTE TO HOWARD WOLPE

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2011

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to the life of one of my House colleagues, Howard Wolpe. Congressman Wolpe was a former chair of the U.S. House of Representatives Africa Subcommittee and senior adviser for Africa to two Democratic presidents, who died last week at his home in Saugatuck, Michigan.

Congressman Wolpe, who represented Michigan in Congress from 1979–1992, was a leading anti-apartheid campaigner and advocate for Africa. As Subcommittee chair for 10 years, he sponsored the Comprehensive Anti-apartheid Act of 1986, which imposed sanctions against South Africa, and passed despite President Ronald Reagan's veto. Congressman Wolpe also spearheaded a comprehensive overhaul of American assistance to Africa, winning passage of the African Famine Recovery and Development Act and creating the African Development Foundation.

Congressman Wolpe also served as President Bill Clinton's special envoy to Africa's Great Lakes Region. He helped mediate an end to conflicts in Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which killed and uprooted large numbers of civilians. He served as director of the Africa Program at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and returned to government service as special adviser to President Barack Obama.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Congressman Wolpe. I appreciate his dedication to this nation and to the peace in Africa. He will truly be missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES B. RENACCI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2011

Mr. RENACCI. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 817, due to flight cancelation and subsequent delay traveling to Washington from my District, I was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

CONGRATULATIONS PRESIDENT-ELECT ROSEN PLEVNELIEV

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2011

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to congratulate President-Elect Rosen Plevneliev who was declared the winner of Bulgaria's presidential election on Monday in an outcome that now gives his

party control over all major government posts and will bolster its push for painful economic reforms, according to The Washington Examiner.

President-Elect Plevneliev won Sunday's contest with 52.56 percent of the vote, according to the Central Election Commission in its final tally. It said the turnout was 48 percent.

Most of the power in the Balkan country of 7.4 million people rests with Prime Minister Boiko Borisov and Parliament, but the president leads the armed forces and can veto legislation and sign international treaties. He also names ambassadors and the heads of the intelligence and security services.

The governing GERB party now controls Bulgaria's top two executive positions and Parliament.

President-Elect Plevneliev, 47, is a former entrepreneur who has been lauded for pushing through several large-scale infrastructure projects as regional development minister. He has been a member of the board of directors of the American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham). He has pledged to reduce the budget deficit and pursue business-friendly policies. He also said he would do his best to unite Bulgarians in pursuit of reforms in the judicial and health care systems, while diversifying energy supplies and improving trade.

President-Elect Plevneliev will take office on January 23. He will replace President Georgi Parvanov, who was barred by law from seeking re-election because he had served two five-year terms.

The center-right GERB party also scored victories in the run-off elections for local mayors in most of Bulgaria's big cities, including in the capital, Sofia.

Congratulations President-Elect Plevneliev and best wishes for success in serving the people of Bulgaria which is a valued partner of America.

SUPPORT OF H.R. 2940 AND H.R. 2930

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2011

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a proud supporter of H.R. 2940, the Access to Capital for Job Creators Act and H.R. 2930, The Entrepreneur Access to Capital Act, both of which seek to help entrepreneurs and small business owners access the capital they need to start or expand their business.

Providing entrepreneurs with the ability to raise more capital will lead to further innovation and a more favorable business model, for small businessmen and women.

Mr. Speaker, the House has passed 15 jobs bills—the 'Forgotten Fifteen' that are languishing in the Senate. With over 46 million Americans living in poverty, we cannot afford to wait any longer.

I urge my colleagues in the House and Senate to support these critical bills.

NORTHERN ROCKIES ECOSYSTEM PROTECTION ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today, along with my friends RAÚL GRIJALVA, EDWARD MARKEY and 25 other Members, I am reintroducing the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act (NREPA), legislation that will protect one of our nation's greatest natural resources, the Wild Rockies. With Americans vacationing closer to home, our national parks have seen an increase in visitors in the last few years—a clear indication of America's love for our wild national treasures. We must do everything possible to preserve our pristine wilderness areas so they can be enjoyed by future generations. In addition, a healthy habitat helps to create jobs including those related to restoration, construction, engineering, recreation, tourism, and retail.

NREPA uses sound science to protect the health of whole ecosystems, including the animals that graze, the native plants and forests that grow, and the watersheds that run through the Northern Rockies. With that goal in mind, this legislation will protect 23 million acres by designating all of the inventoried roadless areas in the Northern Rockies as wilderness, including wild and scenic rivers and streams. The bill also includes a process for States and tribal governments to negotiate a management plan for migratory and biological corridors. NREPA will safeguard only federal public lands—lands owned by all Americans—in Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Oregon and Washington, and does not affect private landowners. It also allows for historic uses such as hunting, fishing and firewood gathering.

NREPA designations are based on ecological and watershed features—not political boundaries. As we all know, rivers don't stay within one Congressional District, animals don't know when they've crossed a political boundary, and forests span millions of miles with no regard for state-lines. I urge my colleagues to take this essential step toward preserving precious wildlife habitat and whole functioning ecosystems in the Wild Rockies.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF EVANGELIST DELLA MAE KING SUTTON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give honor to the life and legacy of Evangelist Della Mae King Sutton of Nesbit, Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, Evangelist Sutton was an indomitable woman of God. She devoted her life to empowering those around her with the knowledge found both in traditional school settings as well as within the Christian church. Born July 20, 1941 in Desoto County, Mississippi, Ms. Della was the first born daughter to the late Turner King, Sr. and the late Remell Bridgeforth King.

Ms. Sutton began her educational training at Shiloh M.B. Church in Desoto County, Mississippi where her father was the instructor.